

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060946
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /040 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:SGEIS:RF
APPROVED BY PM/SAS - ASKOCHEANEK
EUR/NE - MR. DONCHI
ACDA - COL. FORD
OSD/ISA - COL. LOCKLEAR
-----048865 100805Z /13

R 092050Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L S T A T E 0 6 0 9 4 6

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MASS, NO

SUBJECT: GON INTEREST IN STINGER AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

REF: OSLO 1020

1. FOR SOME TIME USG HAS BEEN SEEKING TO LIMIT THE
PROLIFERATION OF MAN PORTABLE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS (MANPADS)
BECAUSE OF THE DANGER THAT THESE WEAPONS COULD POSE TO CIVIL
AVIATION IN THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS. IN VIEW OF THE NATO
NEED FOR EFFECTIVE AIR DEFENSE, SALES OF THE US FIRST
GENERATION MANPADS (REDEYE) WERE APPROVED FOR SEVERAL NATO
COUNTRIES. IN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE POLICY AND BECAUSE
OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE TECHNOLOGY IN THE SECOND
GENERATION MANPADS (STINGER) RELEASE OF TECHNICAL DATA WAS
RESTRICTED. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S REVIEW
OF US ARMS TRANSFER POLICY, USG TOOK SPECIAL DETAILED LOOK
AT MANPADS QUESTION. IT WAS ONLY SUBSEQUENT TO THIS REVIEW
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THAT THE DECISION WAS MADE TO PERMIT RELEASE TO
SELECTED NATO COUNTRIES.

2. WITH RESPECT TO NORWAY, QUESTION OF SALE OF STINGER
WAS NOT ADDRESSED PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF REFTEL BECAUSE NEITHER
DEPARTMENT (PM) NOR DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY
RECEIVED A REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF DATA ON THE SYSTEM THROUGH

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CHANNELS. GENERAL HAMRE'S BRIEFING
WAS APPARENTLY REQUESTED BY NORWEGIAN EMBASSY WASH THROUGH
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY'S FOREIGN LIASION OFFICE.
WE ARE INFORMED THAT HAMRE RECEIVED THE STANDARD
CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFING BY THE ARMY, INCLUDING
INFORMATION ON THE STINGER PASSIVE OPTICAL SEEKER
TECHNIQUE (POST).

3. DEPARTMENT APPROVES RELEASE OF TECHNICAL DATA AND
PRICE AND AVAILABILITY INFORMATION TO NORWAY ON THE
STINGER. NORWEGIANS SHOULD CONTACT THE PROJECT MANAGER
AT REDSTONE ARSENAL FOR A 1-2 DAY BRIEFING. ONLY
PRELIMINARY INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED ON THE STINGER
POST AS IT IS UNDERGOING ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT. PRO-
JECT MANAGER CAN PRESENT GENERAL PRICE AND AVAILABILITY
INFORMATION.

4. QUESTION OF COPRODUCTION IS MORE COMPLEX, AND USG
HAS NOT YET REACHED A DECISION ON STINGER COPRODUCTION.
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